

From: Christopher Dick
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 6:30pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello!

As a user of various operating systems and applications over the years, I recognize the position of Microsoft as the "defacto" standard for software in today's world. However, this does not justify their monopoly position.

Probably the single greatest way to allow Microsoft to continue in an economically viable way that also gives others an opportunity to develop, would be to force Microsoft to open its MS Office and other file formats. This would allow other developers, including "open source" and "freeware" developers, to make software that is 100% compatible with the "defacto" standard for documents, thusly allowing endusers choice in their operating systems, as Microsoft Office is the single greatest driving force behind Microsoft's monopoly.

Please consider this move as a viable portion of the settlement with Microsoft.

Allowing Microsoft to simply "buy" their way ou of it in the manner proposed simply extends Microsoft's monopoly into an area of personal computing that has traditionally been dominated by Apple.

Thank you for allowing the public to voice concern in this matter, and I hope that level heads will prevail.

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